

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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INFO ALL CONSULATES IN MEXICO UNN

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT MX

SUBJECT: PAN FAILS AGAIN TO NOMINATE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

REF: 75 MEXICO 9365

1. THE OPPOSITION PARTY OF NATIONAL ACTION (PAN) FAILED AGAIN JAN 25 IN ITS SECOND CONVENTION TO NOMINATE A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. IT APPEARS THAT THE ONLY OPPOSITION TO PRI CANDIDATE JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO WILL BE THE UNREGISTERED CANDIDACY OF COMMUNIST PARTY NOMINEE VALENTIN CAMPA SALAZAR.

2. THE PAN CONVENTION LASTED THROUGH 13 HOURS AND 7 ROLL CALLS. PABLO EMILIO MADERO, A NEPHEW OF REVOLUTIONARY FRANCISCO I. MADERO AND CANDIDATE OF THE FACTION HEADED BY EX-PRESIDENT JOSE ANGEL CONCHELLO, WHICH FAVORS ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION, STEADILY GAINED ON EACH ROLL CALL OVER SALVADOR ROSAS MAGALLON, BUT FAILED TO REACH THE 80 PERCENT OF CONVENTION BALLOTS REQUIRED BY PARTY STATUTES TO BE NOMINATED. HE OBTAINED 72 PERCENT ON THE SEVENTH AND LAST BALLOT. ROSAS MAGALLON, REPRESENTING THE ABSTENTIONIST FACTION HEADED BY EX-PRESIDENT EFRAIN GONZALEZ MORFIN, EXPRESSED A PERSONAL WILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW BUT CLAIMED HIS SUPPORTERS REFUSED TO PERMIT HIM TO DO SO. ACCORDING TO PRESS

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ACCOUNTS, THE PAN CONVENTION REACHED HERETOFORE UNSEEN

EXTREMES OF MUTUAL RECRIMINATION AND VITUPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO FACTIONS.

3. COMMENT: THE ABSTENTIONIST FACTION, ALTHOUGH CLEARLY REPRESENTING A MINORITY SENTIMENT, UTILIZED PARTY STATUTES TO PREVENT PAN FROM NOMINATING A CANDIDATE. THAT TACTIC SURELY WILL HAVE A DIVISIVE EFFECT ON PAN, WHOSE LIFELONG DILEMMA HAS BEEN THE ABSTAIN VS. PARTICIPATE QUESTION. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER PAN CAN ACHIEVE SUFFICIENT INTERNAL COHESION TO PARTICIPATE EFFECTIVELY IN CONGRESSIONAL AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. THIS DEVELOPMENT IS BOUND TO BE A DISAPPOINTMENT TO THE PRI, AND PARTICULARLY TO LOPEZ PORTILLO, WHO COMMENTED SOME WEEKS AGO TO THE AMBASSADOR ON THE DIFFICULTY OF WAGING A CAMPAIGN WITHOUT OPPOSITION. WE SUSPECT THAT PRI DISAPPOINTMENT COULD RUN EVEN DEEPER--PAN OPPOSITION PROBABLY MAKES PRI UNITY SOMEWHAT EASIER TO MAINTAIN.
THOMPSON

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